

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055758
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 /022 R

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DRAFTED BY AF:GHAMILTON:MN
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.
AF/W:TWMSMITH (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 055758

FOL RPT LAGOS 02821 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USIA WASHDC 11 MAR 77
QUOTE

UNCLAS LAGOS 02821

FOR SCS AND AF/W

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC (DARNTON, JOHN)
SUBJ: FMG SECURITY FORCE QUESTIONS NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU
CHIEF DARNTON

1. AT 1215 GMT WIFE OF TIMES BUREAU CHIEF JOHN DARTON PHONED
PAO TO SAY HE HAD SENT HER MESSAGE THAT POLICE SEARCHING HIS
OFFICE WITH INTENTION OF ARRESTING HIM. AFTER CHECKING WITH
CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION, PAO WENT TO TIMES OFFICE AND SAT
THERE WITH DARNTON WHILE 4 SECURITY MEN (EVIDENTLY CID) MADE
THOROUGH SEARCH OF PREMISES. AT 1340, CID TEAM DEPARTED
TAKING DARNTON WITH THEM "FOR A LITTLE CHAT"; PAO ATTEMPT TO
GO WITH DARNTON BUT CID OFFICER REFUSED STRONGLY BUT POLITELY
SAYING THERE WAS NO NEED, INDICATING THAT DETENTION OF
DARNTON WAS NOT FORESEEN. DARNTON WAS TO PHONE PAO SOON AS
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"CHAT" FINISHED.

2. AT 1545, MRS. DARNTON CONTACTED PAO TO REPORT THAT CID
HAD BROUGHT HER HUSBAND BACK TO THEIR HOME, SPENT AN HOUR
SEARCHING PREMISES AND DEPARTED WITH HIM FOR CID OFFICE.
DARNTON TOLD HIS WIFE THAT HE HAD NOT YET HAD "CHAT" AT CID
AND PRESUMED HE BEING TAKEN BACK TO CID FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MRS. DARNTON SAID CID TEAM WAS POLITE AND GAVE NO INDICATION THAT ARREST OF DARNTON INTENDED.

3. PAO IS FOLLOWING SITUATION CLOSELY AND LOOKING AFTER MRS. DARNTON AND CHILDREN.

4. APPEARS REASON FOR CID INTEREST WAS REPORT IN TODAY'S LAGOS DAILIES OF HIS EJECTION YESTERDAY FROM A MAGISTRATE'S HEARING AIMED AT FINDING FACTS PERTINENT TO RECENT ALTERATION BETWEEN POPULAR MUSICIAN/CULTIST FELA ANIKULAPO-KUTI AND SOLDIERS IN WHICH FELA'S HOUSE BURNED AND HIS FOLLOWERS BEATEN UP.

5. MRS. DARNTON MAY NOTIFY NYT IF HUSBAND IS NOT RELEASED SHORTLY. WE RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY ACTION BY NYT OR USG AT THIS TIME, AS TOO EARLY AN APPROACH TO NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES MIGHT MAKE A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL.
CROSBY

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Sent Date: 12-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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